

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC COMMENTS

FEMA received one comment objecting to using recovery funds from multiple buildings at the Ushers Ferry Historic Village for a new lodge facility at the Village.

FEMA received one comment mentioning that most of the structures at Ushers Ferry Historic Village were located outside of the 100-year floodplain.

FEMA received one comment that without recovery money to restore the damaged buildings that the future of the Ushers Ferry Historic Village could be in jeopardy.

FEMA received one comment expressing the view that it would be inappropriate to use federal money for the lodge based on the perception that it would be competing with the private sector.

FEMA RESPONSES

The subgrantee (City of Cedar Rapids) has determined that the public welfare would not be best served by restoring Ushers Ferry Historic Village or its function to full pre-disaster condition and has requested approval of an alternate project from FEMA. FEMA has considered the impacts to the human and natural environment of the alternate project and has determined that there are no unmitigated or unavoids significant impacts as a result of the project.

FEMA updated flood maps for Cedar Rapids and the surrounding area on April 5, 2010. The flood map effective prior to this date omitted much of the Ushers Ferry Historic Village as illustrated in Appendix A Figure 5. As illustrated in Appendix A Figure 6, the updated flood maps identify a significant portion of the Village within the 100-year floodplain and much of the remaining area within the 500-year floodplain.

The subgrantee (City of Cedar Rapids) has determined that the alternate project is in the better interests of the City than restoration of the Village to its full pre-disaster condition and function.

FEMA has determined that the proposed alternate project is the type of project that would be eligible under program rules contingent on compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).